

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

July 30, 2013 to August 20, 2013

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal activity to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement Framework Adjustment 2 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan (FMP). Framework 2 would allow the specifications process to split annual catch limits (ACLs) seasonally (by month) for the Atlantic herring management areas, and it proposes a policy for authorizing annual carryover of unutilized herring ACL under specific conditions. The Atlantic herring fishery specifications are annual amounts (for the 2013-2015 fishing years, January-December) including: Overfishing Limit (OFL); Acceptable Biological Catch (ABC); a Stock-wide ACL = U.S. Optimum Yield (OY); Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH); Domestic Annual Processing (DAP); U.S. At-Sea Processing (USAP); Border Transfer (BT, U.S.-Caught herring transferred to Canadian vessels for export); Management Area sub-ACLs; Research Set-Asides (RSA); and a Fixed Gear Set-Aside (FGSA). NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed action consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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